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For more information on the Office of Cultural Affairs visit  
<http://www.cityofboston.gov/arts>

## 1. (ähts): a Festival to Remember

Under clear skies and against the dramatic backdrop of a sparkling Boston Harbor, the first annual [Boston Arts Festival](#) was launched with great excitement and fanfare. Visitors, numbering in excess of 15,000, enjoyed a feast for the eyes and ears. Over 75 juried visual artists and craftspeople joined 15 performing organizations in the exciting daylong event presented by Mayor Thomas M. Menino and JPMorgan Chase and Brown & Co.

There were Children's performances and a Participatory Arts area where visitors, with the help of the OCA Mural Crew, could "Paint the Sea." Two \$500 Mayor's Awards were presented for outstanding visual art displays. Jill Solomon, whose studio is at the Radcliffe Ceramics Studio in Allston, won in the 3-D category; Gail Giarrusso, a photographer from Marblehead, won for excellent 2-D work. The main stage included performances by the [Boston Ballet](#), [Boston Lyric Opera](#), Chu Ling Dance, Boston [Jazz and Repertory Orchestra](#), [Digby Dance](#) and many others.

A Big thank you is in order to all the sponsors, artists, performers and volunteers who helped make this a truly wonderful inaugural festival. A survey of all participating artists and performers will provide feedback on ways to make the 2004 edition even better.

## 2. Mark Your Calendar: Fall Cultural Network Forums Planned

The Office of Cultural Affairs is pleased to announce the next round of Cultural Network Forums. These sessions will continue to enable artists and staff of cultural organizations to meet and discuss issues of common concern. These brown bag forums will be held on Tuesdays each month from noon-1:30p.m. at various cultural sites; you are invited to bring brown bag lunch to the session.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

## ONGOING

## Centennial Programming

The Isabella Stewart  
Gardner Museum

[more](#)



## Now - December

Boston Open Studios  
Celebrate the arts this fall

[more](#)



Tuesday, October 21

*Cultural Planning for the 2004 Democratic National Convention (part 2)*

This session will build on the June meeting with Julie Burns, Director of Boston 2004. Over the summer a committee worked with OCA and Julie Burns to develop a short list of the best opportunities for cultural participation in the 2004 DNC. In this session we will break out into groups to start work in these three areas:

1. Pairing performances with venues: a collaborative ongoing performance space for Conventioneers (w/ Geri Guardino of First Night)
2. Kids Convention (w/ BPS presenter TBA)
3. Cultural Information (w/ Boston 2004 presenter TBA)

Host: [Mass College of Art](#) 621 Huntington Avenue (between Longwood Avenue and Evans Way)

Tuesday, November 18

*Cultural Programming in Community Settings*

Guest Speakers: Cate Zannino of the Boston Public Libraries and Kirk Meyer of the Boston Schoolyards Initiative

Host: TBA

Tuesday, December 16

*Holiday Stress Buster*

Host & Guests TBA

Please RSVP to [Richard.Andrade@ci.boston.ma.us](mailto:Richard.Andrade@ci.boston.ma.us) or at 617-635-3245

### 3. Boston NOW...now on the Web!

Boston NOW, your neighbor in the know, is now your neighbor on the net!! The Boston Office of Cultural Affairs in collaboration with WBZ-TV 4 and Sametz Blackstone Associates is proud to launch the freshly designed, fast & user-friendly Boston NOW website at [www.wbz4.com/bostonnow](http://www.wbz4.com/bostonnow)

If you're looking to plan a cultural outing or in quick need of something to do on a Friday night, Boston NOW online is your source for complete arts & culture listings throughout Boston's neighborhoods. Visitors can browse through neighborhood listings or view a complete calendar for the fall season. This brand new one-stop source for arts & culture also hosts a robust cultural links page, neighborhood maps, archived feature articles, ticket information, transportation resources and much more. Best of all, Boston NOW Online is updated weekly ensuring timely and accurate cultural information. Check it out!

### 4. Attention Cultural Orgs & Schools: MCC Changes for PASS Program

Attention Boston Cultural Organizations and Boston public, private schools and out-of-school programs. Please be advised that the Boston Office of Cultural Affairs and the Boston Cultural Council were just informed that the Massachusetts Cultural Council has changed its FY05 PASS guidelines. Performing organizations can now be reimbursed up to \$12, up from the previous \$10. Also applicants can choose any Boston performing venue rather than be restricted to those on the MCC PASS roster. BCC guidelines that preclude museums and historical sites are still in effect. BCC guidelines were disseminated to schools and cultural organizations at the end of August well before these changes were made.

October 15  
BCC Application Deadline

October 21  
OCA Cultural Network  
Forum  
Cultural Planning for the  
2004 DNC

October 25  
Dedication of  
The Boston Women's  
Memorial  
Honoring Abigail Adams,  
Lucy Stone, and Phillis  
Wheatley  
[more](#)

Reminder: the BCC FY04 guidelines and applications are on our website at [www.cityofboston.gov/arts](http://www.cityofboston.gov/arts). Contact Diana Orthman at 617-635-3245 for assistance. The Deadline for all BCC applications is Wednesday, October 15, 2003 by 5:00 p.m.

#### 5. Artists: Make Your Voice Heard in BRA Survey

Are you a Boston artist between the ages of 20 and 34? Do you know Boston residents who are?

You may have heard that the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) has begun a study of 20-34 year olds living in the City of Boston. This group makes up 33% of the City's total population. The City wants to hear from this group about both the positive aspects and the challenges of living in Boston. Over the next few months, the BRA will be holding a series of focused discussions to hear from this group.

We are conducting special outreach to artists because it's important that the voices of artists are represented in this discussion. We hope that you will help spread the word to people that you know. If you are interested in being a potential participant in a focus group, or if you know anyone in this age group who might be interested, please visit A Better Boston For You to fill out a brief survey: [www.ABetterBostonForYou.org](http://www.ABetterBostonForYou.org)

If you have any questions please send email to:  
[ABetterBostonForYou@cityofboston.gov](mailto:ABetterBostonForYou@cityofboston.gov).

#### 6. OCA Developing Performing Arts Roster

The Office of Cultural Affairs is pleased to announce the development of the Boston NOW Performing Arts Roster. If you are a performing artist or organization and would like to fill out the roster survey, click [here](#)

When completed, this new roster and database will provide a vital link between Boston presenters, both public and private, and the Boston arts community. With a simple click of a mouse, event planners such as the Boston Parks Department, the Democratic National Convention and others will soon be able to find the Boston Artist/Organization they need for a particular event, whether it be a 10,000-person event on City Hall Plaza, a corporate holiday party, or a single story teller to perform in one of Boston's neighborhood parks.

This roster will directly link public and private cultural presenters with performers. Accessing this roster will enable presenters to read descriptions of the artists' program offerings, understand their technical requirements, learn about their ability to lecture on their artistic discipline, and provide professional references.

The Office of Cultural Affairs would like to extend its thanks to the City of Boston Management and Information Services Department for their assistance in getting this project off the ground.

For more information contact Roster Coordinator Ruth Birnberg at [ruth.birnberg@cityofboston.gov](mailto:ruth.birnberg@cityofboston.gov)

#### 7. 49 Cultural Organizations Eligible for City of Boston COBEC Program

On August 28, the Office of Cultural Affairs sent out a notice announcing that Boston cultural organizations were for the first time eligible to register for COBEC, the City of Boston's annual small-deduction charitable giving

November 18

OCA Cultural Network  
Forum  
Cultural Programming in  
Neighborhood Venues

December 16

OCA Cultural Network  
Forum  
Holiday Stress Buster



2003 BCAF Grant Recipient

for COBEC, the City of Boston's annual payroll deduction charitable giving program. With little more than a week to apply, we are happy to announce that a total of 49 cultural groups submitted materials for registration, and all 49 have been accepted into the program!

Special thanks to 2004 COBEC leader John Auerbach, Director of the Public Health Commission, for his support for including cultural organizations in the COBEC campaign.

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**Boston Office of Cultural Affairs**

Esther Kaplan, Commissioner

Boston City Hall - Room 716

Boston, MA 02210

P: 617-635-3245

f: 617-635-3031

e: [bostonnow@cityofboston.gov](mailto:bostonnow@cityofboston.gov)

OCA Online: [www.cityofboston.gov/arts](http://www.cityofboston.gov/arts)

Boston Now Online: [www.wbzt.com/bostonnow](http://www.wbzt.com/bostonnow)

